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Md. health department awards $1.3M in grants

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A division of the state's health department said Thursday it has doled out grants totaling more than $1.3 million to 14 statewide health care organizations.

The money, provided by the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission, will be used for improving access to primary care physicians, dental care and mental health and reducing infant mortality in the fiscal year that began July 1.

The grants could eventually total more than $3 million over the next few years and help provide health care services to nearly 77,000 Marylanders, the state agency said in a statement.

Most of the money — $500,000 — was awarded to five behavioral health and drug treatment centers throughout the state, including Baltimore County's Health Department and Mosaic, a mental health clinic based in Baltimore.

Others receiving grants included:

• **Anne Arundel Medical Center**, which received $50,000 to expand primary care access in fiscal 2011;

• Access Carroll, which was given $150,000 this year to improve dental services; and,

• **Calvert Healthcare Solutions Inc.**, which got $90,000 for fiscal 2011 to put toward primary care access. The Calvert County organization could eventually receive $225,000 from the state.

The Maryland Community Health Resources Commission is a division of the state's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Its chairman, John A. Hurson, is the former chair of the state's House Health and Government Operations Committee.

In the past four years, the community health commission has issued 64 grants totaling $20.5 million for hospitals, federally qualified community health clinics and local health departments.

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